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ABSTRACT

This document presents perspectives on, and a reference guide to internationally interlending materials in alternate formats (recordings, braille, large print). A questionnaire was sent to the world's known libraries serving the blind; results of the survey include specific lending information from 29 countries including: South Africa, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia, Saudi Arabia, Canada, United States, and Brazil. Highlights include institutions providing information services to the blind and print handicapped; union lists and library catalogs for accessing library material; links and cooperation between different institutions; interlibrary loan (ILL); resource sharing; how to borrow talking books; national library initiatives; interlibrary loan and document supply resolutions; the philosophy behind international interlending and implications for the visually-handicapped; current access and a call for a common forum for audio books interlending; the United States Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and the sale, loan, and gift of special media materials among libraries; problems of interlending audiovisual materials; international interlending of special format materials for disabled persons; a list of responding nations with no ILL system who wish to interlend in the future; a ready-reference guide of contact points for ILL in alternate formats; and sample ILL forms. The questionnaire is presented and a discussion on planning and executing the project is included. Appendices provide eligibility criteria for the physically handicapped and a sample permission request to lend form. (AEF)